



HALLER LAKE COMMUNITY STREET END PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING

March 22, 2007 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Haller Lake Community Club

Meeting Notes

In attendance: About 40-50 members of the neighborhood; Randy Robinson, Project Manager & Landscape Architect, Seattle Parks; Patti Quirk, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Welcome

Randy Robinson thanked everyone for coming and introduced himself as project manager and landscape architect for the project. The Ground Rules for public meetings were reviewed briefly and the intended outcome was stated that Parks could move forward with the project without further public meetings. As the plans develop, a display can be set up in the Haller Lake Community Club building.

Project Overview

A brief History of Project explained the background of how the project was originated, previous meetings, designs, and community input. Parks is using all of the previous information in formulating the current approach to this project. Randy explained of how decisions are made and what factors have an impact on the outcome of the project. The Project Budget and Schedule was described and the opportunities for public input were outlined.

Site Analysis

- Existing Site conditions were described as having some constraints such as: long narrow site, eroding shoreline, invasive plants, impacts to neighboring property owners, sloped land, exposed sanitary sewer manhole, etc.
- But also, the site has positive opportunities such as: beautiful views of the lake, some existing shoreline habitat, neighboring trees, good morning and afternoon sun exposure, etc.

Project Elements

The design plans that were developed by community members and JA Brennan Associates in the previous neighborhood design process of 2002 – 2003 were reviewed and discussed. Many people present had previously attended the planning meetings in 2002-03. The scope of the current project is less than half the budget as envisioned in 2003, therefore many elements have been dropped from the plan (shade structure, dock, berry garden). However, the basic ideas from the Preferred Plan from 2003 were carried forward to the current Proposed Plan.

The current project plan was presented by Randy. This plan showed the three main areas of focus for the project:

1. Access – ADA accessible path from the street end down to near the lake shore;
2. Shoreline and erosion control and habitat enhancement – with natural erosion control elements such as plants, rocks, logs, and gravel;
3. Amenities for people including a view plaza with benches and picnic tables.

Other elements will include a wall around the sewer maintenance hole to create the view plaza, native plants along the sloped edges, shade trees and open grassy meadow. These elements were all part of the previous design plans developed by JA Brennan Associates.

Questions & Discussion

There was some discussion about closing the park during construction. Randy said that construction would be during the late summer months because shoreline work needed to take place during low water times at the lake. Most site work would need to happen during dry months. The construction site would

be fenced and closed at that time. It was pointed out that some people will still try to get in and walk down to the lake.

There were several concerns voiced by adjacent property owners on 125th Street about parking, speeding, and crime issues. Patti Quirk from SDOT was able to answer some questions about how Street End projects are managed throughout the city. The transportation issues such parking and speeding can be addressed by various other experts in SDOT (Frank Nelson – parking, for example). A study would need to be conducted to determine the type of problems and how to solve them. Everyone on the street block would need to agree on the solutions. However, by applying certain solutions to parking problems, other problems might arise such as: creating space for a turn around would eliminate the parking available at the street end and restricted parking signs would limit property owners parking as well as visitors.

Patti indicated that a future meeting could be conducted between the immediate residents on 125th Street and SDOT to try to resolve the transportation issues.

There was also some discussion about crime that has been on-going at the 125th Street end over many years. Abandoned cars, prostitution, drugs, litter, etc. were mentioned. Randy and Patti pointed out that when a property is improved, most often a different group of people use the site and illegal activity declines. Some of the work of this Haller Lake Community Street End Project will improve police surveillance into the park and improve overall security. Tree branches will be pruned up to seven feet high and ground cover plants will be lower than 30 inches to allow clear sight lines all the way down to the lake. Signage can indicate hours of operation (dawn to dusk).

Randy indicated that a separate meeting will probably need to be organized with Seattle Police Department and encouraged residents to start a dialog with the North Precinct officers. The neighborhood has an established block watch group.

Maintenance was discussed as being an on-going challenge. Parks has funding for 2 years of maintenance (through 2008). After 2008, it would be beneficial for the Haller Lake Community Club to “adopt” the street end through the Adopt a Street End program through SDOT. Liability was discussed and Randy and Patti agreed that the property has been, and always will be City property, therefore has some liability.

Most meeting attendees indicated that a “pack-it-in pack-it-out” approach should be taken at the park (at least on a trial basis) for trash. If a trash can is placed near the lake, it could be overflow and trash would blow into the lake. If a garbage can is placed at the street end, some people would dump their own trash there and it would fill up and overflow. Patti mentioned that it costs the City about \$6000 per year to empty one trash container daily. Signage would indicate the Pack-it-in Pack-it-out policy.

A question was asked about whether new lighting would be added to the space. Randy responded that lighting often encouraged undesirable activities later into the night. Lighting may raise concerns of the adjacent home owners. A “dawn to dusk” policy is probably best.

One adjacent neighbor was concerned about graffiti on the property line fence and wanted to see plants that would prevent people from accessing the fence.

The number and type of benches and picnic tables was discussed in some detail.

Next Steps for this project:

There are no additional meetings planned for this project. Randy can display a finished plan at the Haller Lake Community Club and meet again if necessary. More comments can be given to Randy at any time. He can be reached at: randy.robinson@seattle.gov

Project updates will be posted at the project web page:

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/HallerLake.htm>